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How Our Spy Spied Their Spy

America's Polish Mole Broke Case

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WASHINGTON

The dramatic case of James D. Harper Jr., the Silicon Valley computer consultant accused of selling American missile secrets to Polish and Soviet intelligence for \$250,000 has lifted the veil ever so slightly on the murky, arcane world of counterintelligence. It is an upside-down world of "moles" and mirror images, where nothing is quite what it seems on the surface, a world in which the secret intelligence agencies of East and West clash in an unseen war.

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Most of what is known about Harper, the accused spy, is detailed in a 33-page affidavit filed in the United States District Court in San Francisco by Allan M. Power, a special agent of the FBI assigned to Soviet Bloc counterintelligence duties for the past 20 years. It was Power's job to catch spies from Poland and other Eastern European nations. The FBI document tells this story: Harper was introduced to his Polish contacts by another Californian, William Bell Hugel.

Beginning in 1975, there were a series of meetings in Warsaw, Geneva and Vienna. Harper turned over scores of secret documents to the *Siuzba Bezpieczenstwa*, or SB, the Polish intelligence service, which in turn passed them on to the KGB. Some of the information was obtained by Harper from his wife, Ruby Louise Schuler, who worked for Systems Control Inc., a Palo Alto defense contractor and who died last June (of alcoholism, according to Santa Clara County medical records). Many of the documents dealt with the secret and highly sensitive research conducted at Huntsville, Ala., on anti-ballistic missile defenses for the Minuteman and other U.S. strategic weapons. The army says the value of these documents to the Poles was "beyond calculation".

In an unusual aspect to the case, it was revealed that two years ago Harper contacted William Dougherty, a Southern California lawyer who had represented Christopher Boyce, a convicted Soviet spy. Harper apparently saw Dougherty's name in a book about the case.

In a series of clandestine meetings, Harper told Dougherty all about his spying and asked him to try to cut a deal with the government for immunity from prosecution. Dougherty contacted the Central

Intelligence Agency and passed along Harper's statements. The Justice Department refused to deal, and instead, Harper was arrested. Ironically, his own admissions to Dougherty formed the heart of the case against him.

But what gives the case a special counterintelligence interest is that the United States claims it had a high-level mole inside the SB who was in a position to verify that Harper was indeed selling secrets to the Polish service. The mole worked directly with the two Polish SB agents who were Harper's case officers—

Zdzislaw Przychodzien and his superior Sergei Gromotowicz. In 1980, they received a commendation for their work in the Harper case from Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, then the head of the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service.

The FBI affidavit refers to the mole only as "the Source." But enough is told about him so that, were he still in Warsaw, he would have been easily identified and arrested. At a press conference at which Harper's arrest was announced, the FBI and the Justice Department made it clear that the mole was no longer in Poland.

Presumably he has defected to the United States and is being protected by U.S. intelligence. The FBI refused to comment on either the mole's identity or whereabouts.

Why did Harper come forward and volunteer his spy story to attorney Dougherty? No one is saying, but one possibility is that the mole revealed enough information to U.S. intelligence to cause the FBI to place Harper under surveillance. If the suspected spy became aware

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